

Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting; June 10, 2004; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque

In Attendance:

Cyndie Abeyta, USFWS
Steve Bowser, USBR
Charles Braden, BIA
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps
Don Gallegos, Corps

William J. Miller, WJM Engineering,
Inc./Corps
Gail Stockton, Corps
Valda Terauds, USBR
Tim J. Ward, UNM
Cathy Wilson, LANL

- ❖ Gail Stockton opened the meeting and turned it over to Mike Roark to review URGWOM Technical Team activities since the last Steering Committee meeting. He distributed a list of activities that are attached to the end of these notes. Additional information not addressed in Mike's list are briefly summarized below.
 - Mike described the target flow improvements in URGWOM for Central, Isleta, San Acacia, and San Marcial. This is a more efficient method than the one previously used in the model.
 - MMS (Modular Modeling System) will not be used by URGWOM to forecast runoff this year. Hopefully, it will be ready to use next year.
 - CADSWES is checking into why the new lookup tables to project gains/losses in the San Acacia to San Marcial reach are not working properly with all conditions.
 - A series of sensitivity models for 10-year periods will be used to modify the URGWOM runs for data quality evaluation of the Water Operations Review and EIS alternatives runs. This will assist the technical specialists in understanding how different amounts of diversions to the LFCC would affect flows in the river.
- ❖ Don Gallegos gave a slide presentation about a demonstration version on the URGWOM website. He distributed a handout showing the changes to the URGWOM website.
 - The website has a link to the URGWOM viewer and the Water Operations Model. Downloading the model with a dialup connection takes about 15-20 minutes.
 - To obtain the RiverWare viewer license, the user must e-mail CADSWES and get the license file. The e-mail address and directions are on the URGWOM website.
 - The demonstration runs with the viewer that allows the user to select, summarize, and export data and to get the statistics on the datasets. The user can observe each object, slot, method, and associated accounts.
 - **Question:** How are you currently using URGWOM for water operations?
 - **Answer:** URGWOM was used to develop the Annual Operating Plan, based on the NRCS runoff forecast to provide people notice of high flows. Water managers are also considering the use of URGWOM to project when low flows should be supplemented. In the future, URGWOM could be run weekly to assist in water operations decisions. Currently, Corps and Reclamation managers look at existing flows to plan operations over the next few days.
 - URGWOM is intended to be used by all water-managing agencies to help prepare for and plan operations in a more integrated fashion.

- ❖ Bill Miller gave an overview of the model testing scenarios and protocol. Last month, a letter was sent from the Corps to the signatory agencies of the URGWOM MOU to invite them to participate in model testing. The Phase I (of two) testing was summarized in the presentation and handout.
 - Three scenarios and a base case will be provided to the testers. These include 1995-1997 hydrology, initial reservoir storage conditions based on December 31, 1994 storage levels, and zero credits and debits for Rio Grande Compact accounting. Variations in the scenarios modify minimum flow levels, conservation storage, and a combination of both.
 - The testing package will include instructions for how to navigate through the model and should be available for use within 3 weeks.
 - **Question:** In the hydrology used, are flows low enough to require dumping water?
 - **Answer:** Yes, in 1996.
 - **Question:** Which water takes the greatest evaporation “hit”?
 - **Answer:** Both conservation water and San Juan-Chama water are subject to losses in the model.
 - **Question:** Is the base case constructed to represent how operations occurred during those years?
 - **Answer:** It is supposed to be representative, but the model rules do not correspond to the day-to-day operations so it is not the same as historic operations and flows for those years.
 - **Question:** Are there real data in the package to compare using the model runs?
 - **Answer:** Real data are used and are also available on the website for downloading.
- ❖ Bill Miller gave a report on the status of the rules documentation.
 - Little progress has been made because Brad Vickers is working on the target flow enhancement in the San Acacia reach.
 - Other changes needed include documentation updates to reflect the new tables calculating gains/losses from Nabil Shafike’s groundwater/surface water model, and updates to some of the URGWOM constants and coefficients.
 - The new groundwater/surface water model will be incorporated into URGWOM by CADSWES eventually.
 - The USGS (Dale Rankin) groundwater data from the piezometers at Rio Bravo are now available on the website (<http://nm.water.usgs.gov/GroundWater/gwhome.html>) with regular updates of real-time data. A link to these data from the URGWOM website is planned.
- ❖ Steve Bowser reported that the base information for the ET Toolbox will be updated using the IKONOS data this week. Previously, evapotranspiration was over predicted.
- ❖ Cyndie Abeyta commented on the May public meeting to present the Annual Operating Plan. She thought that the information was good but it was over the heads of most of the audience. She recommended simplifying the graphs and slowing down the presentation to ensure that all of the information is understood.
- ❖ **The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee will be held in the Corps conference room on July 8.**

Technical Team Activities—Mike Roark

Target Flow improvements:

- Brad and Mark Sidlow working on revamping the Target flows for Central, Isleta, San Acacia, and San Marcial. CADSWES has been working on a model method that will allow shortages of irrigation water while meeting target flows. The Tech. Team received the first test software with the new method earlier this week and Mark went over its functionality. Some changes were requested by Mark and we received the software with the changes yesterday afternoon. Mike will be working on the target problem while Mark is out of the office.
- Brad and Mark are continuing to put together the documentation for the rule set.

Water Ops Work:

- Finished preparing a web page to distribute the results of the Water Ops Model runs for April and May. There are two models for May, one with 50% and one with 75% of the NRCS forecast. The URL for these models is <http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/urgwom/samplemodels.htm>.

Development of the MMS Model for snowmelt-runoff:

- Mike and Jack Veenhuis are continuing to work with the USGS Denver development team. The development team is continuing to calibrate the redefined basins provided by the Tech. Team.

Model improvement of the Middle Valley Reaches:

- Nabil finished running the ISC ground-water model to develop tables of gain and loss in the San Acacia to San Marcial Reach. Mike developed a test model to ensure that the model using the lookup table of loss and gain runs properly and can be calibrated to historical data. As soon as the calibration is complete, the lookup tables will be incorporated into the sensitivity model to test the difference in the between using the lookup tables or the previous methods.